

peace and welfare of the State, would seem to indicate the necessity of preparation at all times. I would, therefore, recommend that you be as liberal as possible in the support of the important branch of the State service as the finances of the State founded by wise economy have allowed.

I fully appreciate the report of a matter relating to this department but prepared by the Adjutant General for your consideration. I commend it to your careful attention.

TAX ON STATE BANKS.

The repeal of the ten per cent. tax on State Banks will go far toward solving the money question. This is a matter entirely within the province of the National Congress at Washington but a resolution from the several State Legislatures requesting Congress to repeal

Bank and Insurance Examiner. In 1896 an Act was passed creating the office of Bank Examiner. But a Board appointed by that Act did not

There are now more than one hundred insurance companies doing business in this State. Life insurance as well as fire insurance has taken deep root with our people and nearly every man has those who are dependent upon him provided against his death with an insurance policy upon his life. It is of very great importance to a great many of our people that the companies that solicit business from them should be substantial and reliable companies, so dependent upon them that they are assured may feel secure that when they pay the premium on his policy, when death comes, those for whose benefit he has paid it may get the insurance money and so with State Banks. A great

deal of the business of the country done through banks and many of our citizens have their savings in these institutions. They invite the trust and confidence of the people and should, under the supervision of the State, submit for your serious consideration the wisdom of providing a State Examiner for State Banks and banks of this State. Companies looking for business in this State should know that companies and banks should be glad to have such examinations made for the own protection as well as the protection of their customers. The salaries and expenses of this office could be provided for by the institutions named in the bill. It is the business they do is done in the case of the Railroad Commissioners.

TRUSTS.

While we felicitate ourselves on the number of corporations that have been chartered within the State during the past year and should do nothing to hinder their success it should not be forgotten that they are creatures of the

The State, you have the right to regulate their operations and the operations of those doing business in this State though receiving their corporate existence from other States. The tendency of these corporations is to grow larger and larger and this tendency leads ultimately to oppression and an effort to drive the weaker institutions out of competition and unless guarded by wise legislation they will take away from the individual his dearest possession, his property. If wisely conducted and properly guarded they will do much to develop and bring into life the natural resources of the State. It is a subject that should command your most earnest attention, so that while you legislate to foster and encourage corporate enterprises you might also guard and protect the rights and privileges of the individual citizen.

It is a fact that the Legislature has passed laws that have not been fully implemented. This is due to the fact that the Legislature has not been able to pass laws that are necessary for the development of the country. The Legislature has not been able to pass laws that are necessary for the development of the country. The Legislature has not been able to pass laws that are necessary for the development of the country.

only a local application of the intention of the law. The Commission has called for the enactment of such legislation at different times by my predecessors and yet every session of the Legislature finds itself confronted with a substantial number of special bills. The Commission prohibits the passage of local or special laws concerning certain subjects and demands the enactment of general laws to cover the same. The Commission is not opposed to the enactment of local and special legislation, for it not only involves expense, but it creates confusion in understanding and knowing just what the law is. Where general laws are not proposed, the Commission is not opposed to the enactment of legislation they should receive your attention as when the introduction of local and special legislation should not be permitted.

In view of the **DEBT OF TAXES** on a certain section that the time for payment of taxes be extended after consultation with the comptroller General, I have extended the time for the payment of taxes with out penalty to the 1st of January, 1900.

**GOOD ORDER.**

There has been no mob violence during the past year and general good order has prevailed. I am to be congratulated on giving a legal trial to an execution for a crime that usually results in a hanging. I am commended and will result in greater respect for the proper and legal channels of a mob.

**LIBERTY** is too often construed as license and we need to instill into our people a regard and a respect for the rights of others. Liberty is not license and most highly prized liberty is that which survives the day and of modern times is a tendency to disregard and disrespect constitutional authority and to rebel at the restraint that is necessary to secure and enjoy the best and the purest and the sweetest Liberty.

**CONCLUSION.**

I have thus endeavored to obey the mandate of the Constitution laid upon the Governor to "give to the people of this State a full and complete exposition of the State, and recommend for the consideration such measures as he shall deem necessary to secure the best and the purest and the sweetest Liberty you on economy, for I feel sure that you

realize as fully as I do the needs of our people. It is not for me to squander public money as is consistent with efficient service. The burdens of taxation always fall heavily but we must not forget the expenditure of the public fund for the general good no reasonable taxpayer will complain if the Government is able to carry on its business in a businesslike manner and as a prudent business man would manage his private affairs. If you find in any department an expenditure which is not necessary to effect the work it is your duty to cut them down. Useless and extravagant appropriations should under no circumstances be made. It is the duty of a careful economy should guide you in all matters touching the State's finances. The deliberations of the Board of Finance should be the guidance of an all-wise and overruling Providence and trust that whatever you may do will be for the single to the good of the people of the State.

M. B. MCSWENTY, Governor.